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(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

13 Dec 51

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

WASHINGTON FIELD

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4 DEC 1951	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/6, 29; 11/2, 7, 8, 12-16, 30, 31	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT W. MCCASLIN RWM:efm
TITLE VIOREL TRIFA		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - RU	
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b></p> <p>Subject's INS file number A7819396 sent to Buffalo Office of the INS August 1950. Other information at Central Office of INS reflects subject was reported to be a Rumanian Iron Guard Legionnaire and Commandant and the President of the Christian Rumanian Students. He was also reported to have posted billboards throughout Bucharest January 20, 1941, fomenting the revolt against the "Jews". It was reflected subject arrived in the United States July 19, 1950, emigrating from Italy where he had spent the previous five years. Information obtained from Displaced Persons Commission reflects Church World Service of New York sponsored subject's entrance into the United States. Informant T-1 has information reflecting subject was Adjutant to HORIA SIMA, the Rumanian Iron Guard leader, and the author of the "Trifa Manifesto". Subject has been attacked by the Detroit Rumanian Language Newspaper Tribuna and defended by the Cleveland Rumanian Language Newspaper Solia. Informant T-2 reflected Reverend JOHN TRUTZA said TRIFA was now opposed to the Rumanian Iron Guard Movement. Informant T-3 reflects</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>⑤ - Bureau (105-14006)</p> <p>2 - Buffalo</p> <p>2 - Cleveland (100-17789)</p> <p>1 - Detroit (Info.)</p> <p>2 - New York</p> <p>2 - San Diego (100-0)</p> <p>3 - Washington Field (105-2153)</p>		<p>This is an FBI investigative report and makes no recommendation for clearance or disapproval.</p> <p><b>INDEX</b></p>	

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ENCLOSURE

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information indicating TRIFA's candidacy for Bishop has been fostered by the Rumanian Iron Guard. Informant T-4 reports information indicating NICOLAIE BALINDU, the former President of the Union and League, feels Rumanian Americans are being divided in the United States. Informant T-5 states Mr. RUDI NAN failed to convince Reverend JOHN TRUTZA that TRIFA was undeserving of the Office of Bishop in the Rumanian Orthodox Church.

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DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mrs. LENORE W. KAPLAN, Supervisor of Files, Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, advised that subject's file number A7819396 was sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service Office in Buffalo, New York, August 22, 1950.

Mrs. KAPLAN did, however, make available other information in the Central Office files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service which reflected the subject was reported to be a Legionnaire and a Commandant in the Rumanian Iron Guard of Rumania. The information indicated also that the subject acquired great power after the coup d'etat on September 6, 1940, at which time he was President of the Christian Rumanian Students. It was further stated that TRIFA's main goal at this time was the "destruction of the Jewish people". He, according to the information, while wearing the Green Shield, the symbol of the Iron Guard, committed the most abominable crimes against the "Jewish population in Rumania".

TRIFA, the information reflects, was responsible on the night of January 20, 1941, of posting billboards throughout the city of Bucharest

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which was responsible for fomenting the revolt against the "Jews". TRIFA accused the "Jews" of causing the death of the German Major DOERING. On the orders of TRIFA "Jews" were taken from their homes and later assembled in the police stations throughout the city of Bucharest.

The information further reflects that the Rumanian Judge I. N. ~~VLADESCU~~ stated "at the slaughterhouse, under the pretext of a political movement, the members of the Iron Guard have killed in mass at Jilava, at the city slaughterhouse at Baneasa. The corpses of those killed at the slaughterhouse have been hung on the hooks used by the butchers. Thus have been killed over one hundred persons. Thus has died the Lawyer MILLO BEILER who was taken from his home. The brothers, IULIU and HENRICH RAUCH who were taken from their hotel rooms have the same fate. I recall the homes of those three men because they have been found with their abdomen cut deep by the assassins, who using a butcher knife and being masters in the art of killing took out their intestines and knotted a tie at the neck of each one of them".

The above reported information attributed to Judge VLADESCU was reported to have appeared in the Journal de Dimineata, issue 57, on January 21, 1946.

The information relating to the subject further reflects that the Rumanian publication Pe Marginea Prapastiei printed in Bucharest in 1941 reflected that as a result of the orders issued by VIOREL TRIFA, 120 "Jews" were killed in Bucharest alone; their properties taken and the stores and homes of 1,107 were burned as well as 25 synagogues were destroyed. Additional information reflected to have been reported in this publication referred to TRIFA as the second in command of the Rumanian Iron Guard which was directly responsible for the bloody three days rebellion in Bucharest January 21, 22, and 23, 1941.

The publication Pe Marginea Prapastiei was authorized by the Military Commander of Bucharest who served in the Government of Rumanian Premier General ANTONESCU. This publication in addition to reflecting the above reported information carried pictures, 16 full pages reflecting the corpses of those assassinated during the rebellion in Bucharest and also showed 16 full page photographs of the destroyed synagogues in Bucharest.

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Other information reflecting on TRIFA indicated he was the subject of a broadcast of WALTER WINCHELL on September 9, 1951. A reported text of WINCHELL's broadcast of that date indicated WINCHELL stated "I am sending you documentation in the proof of the following shocker: Nazi leaders who helped HITLER kill American GI's are being admitted to the United States as displaced persons because the Commissioner of Immigration, Mr. MACKIE, is fast asleep. I refer to the Commissioner the Nazi ALEKSANDER MASEKOLIMAS and VIOREL TRIFA now living very comfortably in Chicago and Cleveland. They are murderers."

Along with the information reflected about TRIFA in WINCHELL's transcription was the reported information indicating TRIFA arrived in the United States July 19, 1950, as a displaced person entering this country through the port of New York and emigrating from Italy where he had spent the previous five years. TRIFA's residence was reflected as being 5909 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

This information also revealed TRIFA had been elected Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America July 4, 1951, at the Church Congress held in Chicago, Illinois. TRIFA was described in this information as the hand-picked candidate of Reverend JOHN TRUTZA, who was described as an excommunicated former Priest who had been expelled from the Hierarchy by the Bishop for crimes against the church May 28, 1951.

Reverend JOHN TRUTZA's excommunication was brought about because of heresy on his part and the excommunication was ordered by the Committee of Rules of Procedure of the Disciplinary and Judicial Tribunal of the Rumanian Orthodox Church. The excommunication order was signed by Bishop ANDREW, President of the Church Consistory, delegate of the Holy Synod and of the Rumanian Patriarchate.

TRIFA was reflected to have also been excommunicated from the Rumanian Orthodox Church because of a movement which he joined in youth. The movement, it was reflected, was begun by the subject's uncle, JOSEPH TRIFA, and was known as the Army of the Lord, an organization of laymen who opposed the Rumanian Orthodox Priests and Hierarchy.

This information reflected TRIFA and the other Iron Guard leaders were tried in absentia for their attempt to overthrow the Rumanian Government. They were convicted in absentia July 16, 1941,

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and were sentenced to life in prison. However, prior to their conviction TRIFA, the information reflects, fled to Germany where he became Secretary to the Nazi supported Rumanian ~~Creek~~ Orthodox Patriarch in Vienna. This was described as an important Rumanian Government position in exile, a position held by TRIFA until 1945.

The following were listed in this reported information as persons who would be able to furnish additional information regarding the subject:

Doctor O. K. COSTA, 226 West 71st Street, New York City

Mr. B. GRUBER, 200 West 84th Street, New York City

Mr. FLORIN ZAHARIA, 116 East 58th Street, Apartment 806,  
New York City

Mr. IANCU ZISSU, 25 Nagle Avenue, New York City.

Miss MARGARET B. HICKEY of the Displaced Persons Commission, 900 Indiana Avenue, Southwest, made available information indicating subject's entrance into the United States was sponsored by the Church World Service, 120 East 23rd Street, New York City. It was further reflected that the subject was destined to the St. Mary's Rumanian Orthodox Parish in Cleveland, Ohio, and that it was guaranteed he would have employment with the Rumanian Language Newspaper "America", 5705 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 2, Ohio.

Miss HICKEY stated that the Displaced Persons Commission in the United States did not have any investigative file on any of the displaced persons entering this country. She stated that the Commission was only charged with determining the reliability of the organization sponsoring the displaced persons and indicated the Commission had a representative committee in each state which worked with the governors of the respective states.

Information coming to the Commission subsequent to the subject's arrival and which was made available by Miss HICKEY revealed a letter was received by the Commission which was dated January 3, 1951. This appeared on stationery of the Rumanian Orthodox Autonomous Episcopate of North and South America, the Central Office, 1799 East State Fair, Detroit 3, Michigan.

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This letter called to the attention of the Commission the displaced person VIOREL TRIFA of 6201 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 2, Ohio, who it was stated arrived in the United States during the summer of 1950. TRIFA was described as the Editor of the Rumanian Weekly Newspaper "Solia." He, the letter indicated, wrote vicious and disgraceful articles against "our Bishop and other prominent church leaders". He supports a suspended Priest JOHN TRUTZA.

"It is very humiliating to think that a displaced person who recently arrived on the shores of this country is permitted to attack and insult American citizens". It was stated in the letter that in the name of the Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church a request was being made to the Commission to take the necessary steps against "this former member of the Rumanian Iron Guard, a stooge of Nazism", to see that he was sent back to Rumania.

This letter was signed by NICHOLAS N. MARTIN, Counselor at Large, Rumanian Orthodox Autonomous Episcopate of North and South America.

By letter dated January 30, 1951, the Commission replied to the above letter stating that the Commission had no jurisdiction in TRIFA's case and suggested that if it was thought his case warranted reporting it should be reported in full to the United States Department of Justice.

Senator HOMER FERGUSON of Michigan directed a letter to the Commission February 7, 1951, in which he enclosed a copy of the letter written by MARTIN to the Commission. The Senator's letter requested the Commission to reply regarding the matter. The Commission by letter February 13, 1951, advised that MARTIN had been informed the Commission had no jurisdiction in TRIFA's case and that it had been suggested to him to refer the matter of TRIFA to the Department of Justice.

Miss HICKEY indicated there had been no activity in TRIFA's case subsequent to the Commission's letter of February 13, 1951, answering Senator FERGUSON's letter.

Informant T-1, the records of another government agency which conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, reflects subject was the Adjutant of HORIA SIMA, the leader of the Rumanian Iron Guard

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in Rumania. TRIFA was further described as the Chief of the Iron Guard's Chisinau Center. The subject at the time of the assassination of the German Major DOERING in Rumania issued the Trifa Manifesto which was distributed throughout Rumania. This Manifesto announced to the Rumanians the following:

"Rumanians!

"A German Major was cowardly killed on orders of England by an agent of the Intelligence Service in the streets of the capital.

"The protectors and defenders of this murderer, a man of Greek origin, are: Eugen Christescu, Chief of the Secret Service, formerly a man of confidence to Armand Calinescu and Alexander Riosanu, tools of the Jews and of the Greeks.

"Instead of eliminating these diabolic elements, General Petrovicescu, the brave general and man of (good moral) character, was compelled to leave the government because the English legation and the Masonry had so ordered.

"We ask General Antonescu to do justice to Rumanians.

"We demand the expulsion from the government of all Judeocized masons.

"We demand a government of Legionnaires (Iron Guardists).

"We request punishment of the persons guilty of the murder of the German Major.

"The Christian students of Rumania cannot permit that German soldiers be slaughtered by British agents in the streets of the capital."

This Manifesto was signed by VIOREL TRIFA, President of the National Union of Christian Rumanian Students.

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Following the publication of the Manifesto, it is reflected the Iron Guard under the leadership of the subject paraded through the streets of Bucharest, hailing HITLER and MUSSOLINI in front of the German and Italian Legations and shouting "We want a Legionnaire Government! Long live President HORIA SIMA, the Commandant of the Legion! Death to the Masons and Jews!"

It is reflected that immediately after TRIFA and the Iron Guard members engaged in the above demonstration they visited the Dudești and Vacaresti sections in Bucharest, which were inhabited almost exclusively by "Jews" and looted these sections.

After the fall of Antonescu and the Iron Guard, it is reflected TRIFA and other leaders of the Iron Guard fled to Germany where they were well received by the German Government.

HORIA SIMA attempting to vindicate the Iron Guard's reputation is reported to have eliminated the leaders who were responsible for these actions, and it is revealed TRIFA was among those eliminated.

The Rumanian Language Newspaper Tribuna edited by NICHOLAS N. MARTIN, 243 West Larned Street, Detroit 26, Michigan, attacked the subject by describing him as a very important member of the Rumanian Iron Guard. He was reflected in an article appearing on Page 6, Column 5 as the President of the Iron Guard Student Center in the District of Chisinau, Rumania in 1935-1936. He, it was reflected, arranged with the help of others, the Iron Guard Student Congress of Targu-Mures, Rumania. He is reflected to have visited in Germany from 1938 to 1940 where he followed the terrorist school of HIMMLER and where he became indoctrinated with anti-American ideas. It was further stated he was one of the first Rumanians to pass the target exercises which were organized by the Gestapo and the SS. During 1940 and 1941, it is reflected he was entrusted by HORIA SIMA with the leadership of the entire Iron Guard student movement in Rumania. In this capacity, it is stated he organized the student groups who slaughtered "Jewish families" in the streets of Vacarestiler and Dudestiler. During this time he appealed to the Rumanian students to hate the British and Americans.

It is stated in this article that TRIFA, in the United States, is working for the revival of the Iron Guard movement and is helping many members of the Iron Guard to enter this country.



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The Rumanian Language Newspaper Solia which is published by the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, the defending and sponsoring church body of the subject, at 6201 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland 2, Ohio, provided TRIFA an opportunity to refute the charges made against him. This paper in its issue of September 9, 1951, in an article captioned "A Clarification" appearing on Page 1, Columns 1 and 2 carried TRIFA's reply to the accusations which had been directed against him. TRIFA wrote the following:

"Pertaining to my life and activities, I will give an account to the American authorities, to the Church Congress of Chicago, and to my conscience. The newspaper Solia has a much higher duty than that of allowing itself to be dragged into this attack by those who are unable to do anything constructive.

"Even if we were ready to discuss with somebody a problem, we cannot fabricate words as damaging as those published in the newspapers written against the Episcopate. In a church newspaper and a civilized world, we cannot relegate ourselves to the low level of our adversaries, and even if we desired, it is not our Rumanian nature to utilize such words or such tactics.

"As for the lies and attacks directed against me personally, I pray God to forgive their authors and I beg you to urge the priests of our parishes to say a prayer in church asking God to eliminate from the Rumanians the lies, the hatred, and all the accusations and false rumors and to replace them by a sense of honesty, peace, and understanding and to do constructive things in honor of the name of Christianity, and America, and our Rumania". Signed: "With friendly greetings and best wishes, VIOREL TRIFA".

Informant T-2, of known reliability, reported that Reverend JOHN TRUTZA told the Rumanian National Committee members in Washington, D. C., that TRIFA was now opposed to the Rumanian Iron Guard movement. Informant T-2 said Reverend TRUTZA maintains that the subject now realizes the wrongs of the Rumanian Iron Guard movement in Rumania and is now willing to serve in every way possible to promote the ends of democracy.

Informant T-2 stated Reverend TRUTZA implied that inasmuch as the United States Government considers TRIFA eligible to enter the

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country he, TRUTZA certainly could not personally maintain the conviction that TRIFA was unqualified for the office of Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate.

Informant T-2 stated that when TRUTZA contacted the Rumanian National Committee September 25, 1951, he expressed the belief that TRIFA would make a good Priest and upon the completion of the necessary formalities in connection with his consecration he, TRIFA, would be a deserving Bishop in the Rumanian Church.

Informant T-2 said members of the Rumanian National Committee pointed out to Reverend TRUTZA the disadvantages of electing TRIFA Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church. In addition the informant indicated it was pointed out to Reverend TRUTZA the awkward position in which he was placing the members of the Rumanian Orthodox faith by insisting on having a former member of the Iron Guard as a Bishop of the church. It was stated to Reverend TRUTZA, T-2 related, that this body of the church was being placed in a vulnerable position for a Communist propaganda attack.

Informant T-2 indicated that in spite of the admonition given TRUTZA by the Rumanian National Committee he continued to maintain the conviction that he could prevent any trend in the United States among the Rumanian Americans towards a return to the Iron Guard movement. TRUTZA indicated, Informant T-2 said, he personally felt he would always be able to handle TRIFA and that TRIFA's elevation to the role of Bishop would be a substantial contribution to the solidification of Rumanian Americans who today are troubled about the recent imposition of the Rumanian Communist Bishop ANDREW MOLDOVAN in the Rumanian Orthodox Church in Detroit, Michigan.

Informant T-2, expressing the views of the members of the Rumanian National Committee, stated it was likely the Rumanian American Jews in the United States would soon express their disapproval of the election of TRIFA as Bishop.

Informant T-3, the records of another government agency which conducts personnel and intelligence investigations, reveals information indicating TRIFA's candidacy for Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox

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Church in the United States has been fostered by the Iron Guard operating in its clandestine state.

It is reflected further from the information given by Informant T-3 that the subject, who with other leaders of the Iron Guard while enjoying asylum in Nazi Germany, were interned in concentration camps by the Germans as a means, so far as the Germans were concerned, of keeping them in control. Today many of those who were incarcerated in concentration camps during the war are attempting to gain sympathy by alleging they were interned in concentration camps because they were democratic victims of the Nazis.

TRIFA, it is further reflected after the assassination of Major DOERING, the Chief of Railway Transport of the German Army in Rumania, stated publicly "American agents, joined by French Masons" killed "our allies, the Germans". At that time TRIFA called on all "real Rumanians and Legionnaires to fight and overthrow the traitors".

Informant T-4, of unknown reliability, reported information indicating NICOLAI BALINDU, 4297 West 35th Street, Cleveland 9, Ohio, the former President of the Union and League of the Rumanian Societies of America, is of the opinion Rumanian Americans are being divided in the United States.

BALINDU so expressed himself September 12, 1951, Informant T-4 said, and at that time stated the news heard about the Greek Orthodox Church in America is "so so". At that time he indicated that the Priests are still divided; that TRUTZA has a following and that MOLDOVAN (Bishop ANDREW MOLDOVAN) has a following. BALINDU in discussing Bishop MOLDOVAN stated it seemed to be too much to accept as bonafide that the entire church and every Priest ordained therein would be invested with Communism and not with Christianity, even though MOLDOVAN's investiture was made in Rumania where the government is pro-Russian.

BALINDU stated the friends of the Guardist-Nazi philosophy brow beats much now about this question of Communism and they wish "to sound off that they are very democratic". They claim, he stated, they are the only true defenders of the liberty of humanity. They, who only yesterday, shattered and killed higher, wider and handsomer than the savages.

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BALINDU described TRIFA as the President of the organization of students in Bucharest in early 1941 who was responsible for the killing of IORGA, MAGEARU, and others as well as for the pogrom against the "Jews".

BALINDU, T-4 remarked, stated that he too was incensed at the cruelties and beastialities of TRIFA which were also denounced by WALTER WINCHELL.

NICOLAIE BALINDU, 4297 West 35th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, a person long active in Rumanian American activities in the United States, served for eighteen years as President of the Union and League, an organization of Rumanian Societies in the United States. BALINDU was voted out of the presidency of the Union and League in 1948; however, he has continued to exercise influence among the Rumanian Americans in the Rumanian colonies throughout the United States.

Informant T-5, of known reliability, said RUDY NAN, of Youngstown, Ohio, reported to the Rumanian National Committee in Washington, D. C., that he had endeavored to convince Reverend JOHN TRUTZA, the Rumanian Priest, Cleveland, Ohio, that the subject was undeserving of being elected Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in the United States. Informant T-5 said NAN implied that there was a feeling among many of the Rumanians the election of TRIFA as Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church would bring about a split among many of the sincere Rumanians in this country. He made the observation, T-5 indicated, that a number of the parishioners in the Rumanian Orthodox Parishes in the United States if Trifa were consecrated Bishop would go to Reverend ANDREW MOLDOVAN's group.

Informant T-5 indicated there was growing alarm among many of the Rumanian Americans in the United States over the resurgence of the Iron Guard movement.

Reverend VASILE MATEGAN, Pastor of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in New York will, according to Informant T-5, hold a celebration in honor of the consecration of TRIFA as Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church.

RUDY NAN, 18 South Champion Street, Youngstown, Ohio, is the fourth Vice President of the Rumanian-American National Committee, an

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association of Rumanian Americans in the United States which it is stated was formed to combat Communism among the Rumanian Americans in this country. NAN was formerly President of this association.

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